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As I was entering my apartment, the phone was ringing. It was Joe Pascoe: a friendly how's-it-going call. He told me how much he appreciated the article in the Social Studies Department and reported on the positive feedback that he had gotten on it. A copy of the article is attached to his bulletin board in his classroom. I will see Joe about a series of local history lectures at the CAHS this year. Perhaps on Thursday morning at 9:30 I will see him and we will schedule the lecture on local history that I will deliver at CAHS this year. Joe and I chatted about 30 minutes and then I telephoned John. Her father answered the phone and I said, as I always do: "Hi is Robert Powell. Is John around?" Her father then told me that he had gone to bed about 20 minutes before I telephoned and said that he would get him if it were an emergency. "No," said I, "Don't wake him. I can talk to him tomorrow," and that was that.

John's beautiful note has reduced me to silence. Such an extraordinary experience: to have someone, whom you regard as your best friend (but whom you have never told that he is your best friend), write you a note and tell you that you are the best friend that he has ever had or ever will have in this life. Truly, I am overwhelmed. When I see John tomorrow, and certainly will, I will bring up the note. Frequently I find myself wondering if certain things should be verbalized between friends. Probably I tend to "under-verbalize" things that should be said. When I see John tomorrow, I will not "under-verbalize" my response to his note. I must make certain that my response does not embarrass John. Would it make him uncomfortable if I told him that were it not for him I would not have quit my job ^{in NYC} and returned to Carbondale to live? Everything that I do in and for Carbondale, I do because of John. He is the future. At the same time, he is the past, and yet no one could possibly be more of the present than he is. He brings out the best in me. John and I met on November 6, 1981, and he has enriched my life as no one I have ever known has. He is my best friend and I am his best friend.